

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is responsive to the non-final Office Action dated March 21, 2011. Applicants believe that this Reply is responsive to all matters raised in the Office Action and that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

REMARKS REGARDING CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Office Action objected to claims 1-2, 4-8, 27, and 28 due to improper antecedent basis issues. Applicants thank the Examiner for catching these errors and required amendments have been noted for future reference if needed.

REMARKS REGARDING CLAIM REJECTIONS

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-14, and 16 under 35 USC§103(a) as being obvious over Hughes US 5,950,744 (Hughes '744) in view of Carstensen (US 4,706,997). Claims 17-25 stand withdrawn in view of a prior election.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner specifically referring to the Hughes embodiments that were bases for the rejections (e.g., Figs. 18 – 20). Applicants have carefully reviewed the cited references and have elected to cancel all pending claims, including the withdrawn claims, in view of prosecuting those claims previously deemed allowable. Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute the canceled claims in subsequent applications if determined worthy of such effort. Applicants have amended claims 8, 27, and 28 to overcome the objections such that each of these claims are now in condition for allowance. Support for the amendment for claim 28 is found in paragraph [0028] of the application.

Pending receipt of a notice of allowance and prior to payment of any issue fee, Applicants will consider whether to file a continuing application to prosecute any of the canceled claims. In the mean time, in light of this Amendment and Response, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions or if a telephone interview would in any way

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advance prosecution of the application, the Examiner is encouraged not to hesitate to contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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